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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY

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### Report of the President

Evidence is not lacking of vigor of interest and activity in our membership. Indeed, I am convinced that this Society is possessed of a vitality which promises well for the future. Our members are individually interested in some phase of fern study or observation, many of them keenly, actively, and fruitfully. Doubtless it remains for many of us to discover the advantages which may be given or received through an association of more than a quarter of a thousand men and women scattered over our own and other countries, and I believe that we would do well in developing the fraternal spirit to a greater degree. At another time\* I took occasion to offer some suggestions which, if acted upon, would in my opinion render membership more enjoyable and profitable. I venture to hope that those suggestions may still have value.

Doubtless, the most tangible evidence of the Society's activity is to be found in its JOURNAL. This evidence is very real, and is a good demonstration of what can be done when there are those who are sufficiently interested and competent to put themselves to a specific task. The present arrangement providing for a "Business Manager" seems as effective as it is desirable. We are fortunate in having among our members those who, in addition to already exacting demands upon them, are willing to devote the necessary time and energy to the production of a periodical which so creditably reflects what the Society stands for. These gentlemen merit the commendation and co-operation which

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\* AMERICAN FERN JOURNAL, April 1912, p. 58.

I am confident we all desire to give them. I believe that to them should also be given the greatest freedom in the handling of their work. More perhaps than anyone else they are in position to know the resources of the Society and to feel the responsibility of adjusting the expense to the income, and it should therefore be very largely left to them to determine the details of JOURNAL management.

It is gratifying to learn that there is no lack of material for publication. If we sometimes wish that the JOURNAL contained more in the nature of brief comment and personal, every day observation and experience from our members at large, we must remind ourselves that we are responsible for such lack and not the editors, who invite and welcome contributions of that character. I believe that the JOURNAL might well be made the medium of greater interchange and expression among members.

There are several points of organization and administration which invite attention and possible action. Among these are the proposed revision of the Constitution, and the question as to what course to pursue with reference to members in arrears for dues. Of the first it may be said that a committee was appointed by Dr. Dowell, who was then President, for the purpose of considering and reporting upon the matter. It seems desirable that certain points which have led to differences of interpretation should be cleared, that others looking to better form should be modified and possibly that some changes be made in methods of procedure. This committee has given the matter some consideration and expects to present its report in the near future.

The other point suggested above may be covered in the treatment of the first. The question arises as to how long one's name should be carried on the member-

ship list after he fails to pay his dues. Clearly the expense of mailing notices and sending the JOURNAL should not be continued indefinitely if the member in question, after the lapse of several years and after having the matter brought to his attention, fails to give any expression indicative of his desire to receive them. This has been a matter of some concern to our Treasurer and his official associates.

In view of the approaching Exposition in San Francisco in 1915 it may not be inopportune to suggest the possibility of getting together such of our members as shall be in that city at that time. If some of our western members would take this matter in hand agreeable results would surely follow.

While we have a gratifying and increasing number of members, this number might be materially augmented if present members would more generally extend their personal invitation to those known to be interested in the subject. It may be noted that there are some states which are wholly unrepresented in our membership list. I suggest that some systematic effort be made toward securing members from such unrepresented states.

But after all, a large membership and a well-equipped organization are of value only as they are made use of for the promotion of the delightful study in which we are engaged. It is to be hoped that the coming year will see a distinct increase in the use made of the means at hand.

ROBERT A. WARE.

BOSTON, DECEMBER, 1913.

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### Report of the Secretary for 1913

The American Fern Society is now enjoying the most prosperous period of its existence. The membership is increasing rapidly and the FERN JOURNAL has been con-

ducted in such a manner that it has won merited praise wherever the publication is known. Meanwhile the herbarium has not fallen behind—in fact the number of mounted sheets has been more than doubled within the last four or five years.

The various officers have worked together in harmony and the year has been a very pleasant one to those who have been charged with the duty of carrying on the business affairs of the Society.

The writer believes the best interests of the Society would be furthered by combining the offices of secretary and treasurer with title of secretary-treasurer. It would save much time and no little postage. The latter item is considerable since all the business of Society must be conducted by correspondence. It also takes considerable time to learn how to carry on the business of the Society with the least effort and expense and the Society would profit by not changing its officials too often.

The Society now has 242 members, the largest number by far in its history. A little well directed effort would no doubt increase this number considerably.

Although re-elected, the writer has resigned, as it is impossible to find the necessary time to devote to the office. It is the intention also to devote more time to building up the herbarium.

Let us all co-operate with the new officials to make the new year better in every way than any that has preceded it.

L. S. HOPKINS,  
*Secretary.*

KENT STATE NORMAL SCHOOL,  
KENT, OHIO.

**Report of the Treasurer**

Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1913

## RECEIVED

Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1913.....	\$ 2.29
Received from dues, subscriptions, and sale of back numbers.....	250.40
Gifts from H. E. Ransier (\$16.99), R. C. Benedict (\$5.00), E. J. Winslow (\$5.85), and T. C. Frye (\$25.00) .....	52.84
(Used largely for engraving plates, a few of which are to appear in 1914.)	
Received from advertisement .....	4.00

## DISBURSED

Postage and envelopes used by Treasurer for bills and receipts .....	\$ 12.54	
Printing receipt forms .....	2.25	
Engraving plates .....	56.45	
Printing four numbers of Journal and Annual Report.....	206.65	
Expenses incurred by business manager: envel- opes, express, postage for mailing Journals, etc.	15.56	
Cards for elections, and printing same .....	4.16	
Balance on hand December 31, 1913 .....	11.92	
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	\$309.53	\$309.53

HAROLD GODDARD RUGG,

HANOVER, N. H.

**Report of the Judge of Elections**

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE AMERICAN FERN SOCIETY:

The undersigned, Judge of Elections by appointment of Pres. Robert A. Ware, respectfully presents the following report of the balloting for officers of the American Fern for 1914:

Whole number of ballots cast.....	62	Mr. Geo. L. Moxley .....	13
Number of complete ballot' .....	59	Dr. S. M. Newman .....	1
Number of incomplete ballots.....	3	—	61
Necessary for choice.....	32	For Secretary.	
For President.		Mr. L. S. Hopkins .....	49
Mr. C. H. Bissell .....	45	Mr. F. T. Pember .....	11
Mr. William Palmer .....	14	Mr. Clayton S. Wertsner ..	1
Mr. H. E. Ransier .....	1	—	61
Mr. Edwin C. Jellett .....	1	For Treasurer.	
—		Mr. H. C. Bigelow .....	31
61		Mr. F. G. Floyd .....	28
For Vice-president.		Mr. George Redles .....	1
Miss Nellie Mirick .....	47	—	60

I therefore declare the election of Mr. C. H. Bissell as President; Miss Nellie Mirick, Vice President; Mr. L. S. Hopkins, Secretary; of the American Fern Society for 1914.

Thirty-two votes being necessary for election, there has been no election of the Treasurer.

DORA A. RADLO.

NORTH ADAMS, MASS., NOVEMBER 1, 1913.

### Report of the Curator

The Herbarium is growing rapidly and now numbers 1,223 mounted sheets, as compared with 553 sheets when it was turned over to the present curator a few years ago.

In addition to the donations previously acknowledged through the JOURNAL, Mr. F. T. Pember, of Granville, N. Y., just recently sent in 68 mounted sheets. Miss Nellie Mirick, of Oneida, N. Y., also contributed 22 mounted sheets at the same time. Mr. Pember's collection included native species only, while Miss Mirick's

collection contained several European species. Each contribution contained some very desirable specimens.

There is a growing tendency manifested in many places to cultivate the native ferns as well as collect them. This is as it should be. It preserves the native species, affords an opportunity to study critical forms, and allows others the privilege of enjoying their beauty.

During the year four persons have availed themselves of the opportunity to borrow specimens from the Society Herbarium for comparison and study. The Herbarium contains some fine material, and members should bear in mind that they may borrow it merely by paying the postage.

L. S. HOPKINS,  
*Curator.*

KENT STATE NORMAL SCHOOL,  
KENT, OHIO.

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(Continued from page 32.)

Names to be added to the list of members: Mrs. A. E. Marsh, The Rectory, Blair, Neb.; Wilhelm Nikolaus Suksdorf, Bingen, Washington; Leston A. Wheeler, Townshend, Vt.

In addition to another installment of Prof. Frye's fern flora of Washington, the next number of the JOURNAL will contain among other things a study of the ferns of a section of Maine, a fern flora of South Carolina, a list of California ferns collected in a small area, a description of the habitat requirements of *Ophioglossum Engelmanni*, besides a number of short notes. The items listed will probably more than fill the space of an ordinary number. The only reason why the JOURNAL will not have more articles will be the necessity of keeping within our income, and limiting each number to no more than 32 pages.